Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 7

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2002 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access, look for these reports on the Internet shortly after the 3:00 P.M. release time. Our Home Page address is listed at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view text and PDF files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Field activities were virtually at a standstill last week. There was 0.9 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Rain in most areas along with snow in some regions of the state kept farmers out of the fields. Soil conditions were too wet in most regions of the state to support heavy equipment, although fertilizer and lime were spread on some fields and pastures. Farmers were able to accomplish tillage activities last fall in many fields after the early harvest. Some farmers applied fertilizer, lime and top dressed winter wheat earlier this year when soil conditions were drier.

Major activities during the week were preparing equipment, purchasing supplies, moving grain to market, hauling manure, ditching, cleaning fence rows and taking care of livestock.

Seven percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 14 percent last year and 18 percent for 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 57 percent good to excellent compared with 69 percent a year ago at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 5 percent excellent, 46 percent good, 37 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Pasture and forage growth has been slow thus far this season. **Hay** supplies are rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus. Livestock have been under some stress from the cool, wet weather. Calving and lambing are active.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Winter Wheat Jointed	7	NA	14	18

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Pasture	1	11	37	46	5
Winter Wheat 2002	1	8	34	49	8
Winter Wheat 2001	1	5	25	56	13

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	6
Short	1	NA	22
Adequate	38	NA	66
Surplus	61	NA	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	7
Short	4	NA	23
Adequate	60	NA	66
Surplus	36	NA	4
Days Suitable	0.9	NA	5.7

CONTACT INFORMATION

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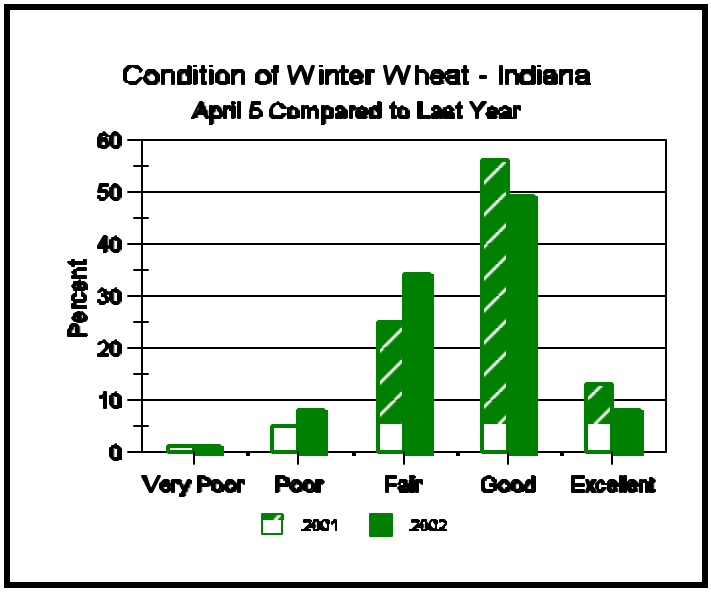

Other Agricultural Comments And News

Virus Diseases of Wheat

- Wheat fields may show a yellow mosaic as spring regrowth starts

As wheat begins to grow, we may see widespread yellowing that looks like nutrient deficiency. It is possible that these symptoms will be the result of infection by either to of two soilborne viruses of wheat are widespread in Indiana soils, rather than to a deficiency of nitrogen. These viruses are*Wheat spindle streak mosaic virus* (WSSMV) and *Soilborne wheat mosaic virus* (SBWMV). Both viruses persist in a common soilborne fungus, *Polymyxa graminis*. Spores of this fungus infect wheat roots and in so doing transmit the virus to the wheat plant. Cool, wet soils favor infection. Much of the state experienced those conditions last fall, so there is a good chance that these diseases will appear this spring. Weather conditions in the spring are also critical for symptom expression. These diseases are often most conspicuous when a period of unusually warm weather early in the spring is followed by a return to cooler weather. At that time, symptoms can suddenly appear in many wheat fields.

The symptom to look for is a pale green to yellow mosaic on young leaves. SBWMV, as its name implies, causes a mosaic – narrow, pale green to yellow, wavy-margined streaks on the leaf blade. Symptoms of WSSMV infection are similar, but the streaks tend to taper at both ends, hence the name “spindle.” From a distance, fields or parts of fields have a pale green or yellow appearance, as though they are deficient in nitrogen.

In practice, it is very difficult to distinguish these two diseases based on symptoms. Both viruses may be found in the same field, and both viruses may infect the same plant. Wheat spindle streak is reported to be more uniformly distributed throughout fields than is soilborne wheat mosaic virus.

Most varieties of soft red winter wheat grown in Indiana have some degree of resistance to

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Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 7, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 2002 thru April 7, 2002				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_AP_I	54	22	37	-9	0.94	4		0.94	+0.06	4	0	-7
Wanatah	54	21	36	-8	1.01	4	43	1.01	+0.17	4	0	-7
Wheatfield	56	22	37	-8	1.16	3		1.16	+0.32	3	0	-7
Winamac	57	22	37	-9	0.66	5	42	0.66	-0.16	5	0	-7
North Central(2)												
Chalmers_5W	61	23	38	-10	0.14	5		0.14	-0.64	5	0	-14
Plymouth	55	23	37	-10	1.35	5		1.35	+0.49	5	0	-9
South_Bend	53	20	36	-9	0.65	5		0.65	-0.25	5	0	-7
Young_America	64	25	39	-7	0.38	3		0.38	-0.39	3	0	-7
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	55	23	37	-8	0.56	3	40	0.56	-0.28	3	0	-5
Fort_Wayne	61	25	39	-6	0.42	3		0.42	-0.35	3	0	-7
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	66	21	39	-10	0.36	1		0.36	-0.48	1	0	-16
Perrysville	64	25	40	-8	0.01	1	43	0.01	-0.87	1	0	-13
Terre_Haute_AFB	66	24	43	-7	0.15	1		0.15	-0.70	1	6	-11
W_Lafayette_6NW	60	23	39	-8	0.34	3	43	0.34	-0.46	3	0	-7
Central (5)												
Brookville	73	27	42	-6	0.39	2		0.39	-0.51	2	4	-6
Eagle_Creek_AP	67	26	42	-8	0.63	2		0.63	-0.24	2	1	-13
Greenfield	65	25	39	-8	0.46	4		0.46	-0.44	4	0	-10
Indianapolis_AP	69	26	42	-7	0.27	1		0.27	-0.60	1	3	-11
Indianapolis_SE	67	25	40	-9	0.41	1		0.41	-0.42	1	1	-13
Tipton_Ag	65	25	39	-6	0.56	4	41	0.56	-0.32	4	0	-7
East Central (6)												
Farmland	69	21	39	-6	0.98	3	42	0.98	+0.17	3	1	-6
New_Castle	67	21	37	-9	0.78	1		0.78	-0.12	1	0	-7
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	77	26	46	-8	0.19	1		0.19	-0.77	1	15	-17
Freelandville	68	27	43	-8	0.38	1		0.38	-0.51	1	2	-19
Shoals	73	25	43	-8	0.28	1		0.28	-0.70	1	4	-17
Stendal	75	28	44	-8	0.15	1		0.15	-0.90	1	5	-20
Vincennes_5NE	70	24	43	-7	0.20	1	43	0.20	-0.69	1	3	-18
South Central(8)												
Spencer_Ag	67	23	41	-7	0.20	1		0.20	-0.72	1	1	-13
Tell_City	80	32	49	-3	0.21	1		0.21	-0.92	1	18	-10
Southeast (9)												
Milan_5NE	71	26	40	-8	0.25	2		0.25	-0.65	2	2	-8
Scottsburg	73	28	43	-9	0.17	1		0.17	-0.82	1	4	-17

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

these viruses. They may show some yellowing during periods of fluctuating temperatures during the spring, but once the cold weather is past, these varieties tend to outgrow the symptoms on lower leaves and there is probably little damage. A few varieties are more susceptible. The intensity of yellowing is greater, and is accompanied by stunting, reduced tillering, and death of some plants in the field. These varieties will suffer economic damage from these diseases. There is no remedial action that can be taken at this stage. If a variety develops severe symptoms, don't plant it again next year. There are plenty of varieties with good resistance.

Gregory Shaner, Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University.

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